(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government intend to put in place any alternative system for sale of coal, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The average e-auction price of coal sold through e-marketing by CIL during the year 2006-07 (upto July, 2006), has shown a declining trend. The reasons for decline could be attributed to factors like gradual maturity of the market, stabilisation of prices due to removal of fear of scarcity of coal, substantial increase in supply of coal through e-marketing etc.

(c) Government has no intention at present to introduce any alternate system in place of e-marketing.

Fly ash from thermal power plants

†2881. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether fly ash emitting from thermal power plants is being used in coal mines in Orissa;

(b) whether this experiment has been successful;

(c) if so, whether Government would consider using the fly ash emitting from thermal power plants in other coal mines also; and

(d) if so, by when a decision would be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Ash dumping in mine voids has been successfully commenced recently. Several mine voids in subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) have been identified for dumping of fly ash from nearby power plants.

Coal production and gap between demand and supply

2882. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of coal in the country both by Coal India Ltd. and other captive mines;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.